

Today's Advertisements.

VICTORIA—PRECEPTORY.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the VICTORIA PRECEPTORY will be held at the FREEMASONS' HALL, TUESDAY, the 5th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Sir Knights are cordially invited to attend.
Hongkong, 5th May, 1899.

PERSEVERANCE LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 1165.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on TUESDAY, the 16th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Sir Knights are cordially invited to attend.
Hongkong, 5th May, 1899.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned will sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, at his Sales Rooms, Zetland Street, No. 1, on

WEDNESDAY, the 10th May, 1899, commencing at 2.30 P.M., A LARGE QUANTITY OF HOUSEHOLD & OFFICE FURNITURE OF EVERY Description, including a large quantity of Gentlemen's wearing apparel, belonging to Gentlemen leaving the Colony. For full Particulars see Catalogues, which can be obtained from the Undersigned. TERMS OF SALE: Cash on delivery. On View at the Undersigned's from MONDAY, the 8th instant.

PAUL BREWSTER, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1899.

TO LET, at the PLAK, WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

A FIVE-ROOMED BUNGALOW, situated on Mount Gough, called KIPENGOA. Apply to

H. L. DENNIS, Supreme Court.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1899.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE Company's Steamship

"PATIENCE,"

Captain Jones, will be despatched as above

TO-MORROW, the 6th instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1899.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.

THE Company's Steamship

"FORMOSA,"

Captain Douglas, will be despatched for the

above Ports, on SUNDAY, the 7th instant,

at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LARPAK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1899.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"THALES,"

Captain Hall, will be despatched for the

above Ports, on TUESDAY, the 9th instant,

at Daylight, instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LARPAK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1899.

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

IMPORTERS OF HIGH-CLASS

BRANDIES.

A.—Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Capsule - - - - - \$18.00

B.—Superior Very Old Cognac Red Capsule - - - - - 21.00

C.—Very Old Liqueur Cognac - - - - - 24.00

V.O.—D.—Hennessy's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1872 Vintage, Red Capsule - - - - - 36.00

V.V.O.—E.—Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1862 Vintage - - - - - 48.00

All our Brandy is guaranteed to be PURE COGNAC, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

Smaller quantities and sample bottles will be supplied at proportionate wholesale rates.

We guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine only when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorised Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Limited, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1899.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A glance at the Water Return, published in another column, will immediately show to what grave straits the Colony is reduced for want of water. On May 1st last year the total storage in Pokfulam and Tytan reservoirs amounted to only 183,080,000 gallons, which, the consumption for the previous month being 90,085,000 gallons, represented about two months' supply for the Colony. This was considered at the time to be by no means an adequate reserve, but the figures for the same period of this year show a much worse state of affairs. On the 1st instant we had a stock of water in the two reservoirs amounting to 40,030,000 gallons or scarcely half a month's supply at the rate of consumption of April last year, while at the greatly reduced rate of consumption for the same period this year our present stock of water will not last a month. Should the estimated population consume but 0.33 gallons per head per day during May as they did during April, the present supply of water shows a deficit of no less than 0.33, 12,000,000 gallons. If the Government are in need of proof of the utter inadequacy of our storage reservoirs to supply the wants of the Colony, surely their own figures should suffice? Certainly, the past year has been one of exceptional drought, but it is against such periods of drought that it is necessary to make provision, as we have before pointed out. Want of water only too frequently means distress in disease, and everyone must admit that Hongkong is already unhealthy enough without being rendered more so in a sanitary point of view.

In reply to "Perplexed" in regard to the word "bustle," the meaning of which he fails to understand, our mutual critic will, for his edification, be "perplexed" being so dejected—consequently to tell him that the word is used in the medical profession simply as an abbreviation of "bustle-robust," "Perplexed" says he has heard of a bustled boiler, so has our critic, and he has also heard of a bustled type, but he would like our correspondent to give a good definition of a "bustled flush."

One day, nearly a year ago, the foreign inhabitants of Yokohama were apprised of a rise in the prices of washing. The rise was so exorbitant, the prices of some articles being raised from 4 cents to 12, that the community talked seriously of starting a steam laundry. Certain gentlemen set about getting estimates, with the result that Yokohama now possesses an up-to-date laundry capable of doing all the washing of the foreign community at a very reasonable price. The native washermen and washerwomen are now glad to come down to their old prices, but they find no encouragement, and are suffering in consequence of their unreasonable action in raising the prices so high. Why cannot Hongkong raise a steam laundry also and save us from the many inconveniences attending the present state of affairs.

It was recently reported that the Koho Chamber of Commerce (Japanese) invited the views of the various trade guilds in Koho on the question of foreigners being admitted members of the guilds after the new Treaties come into force. According to the *Yokohama*, the match, hardware, tea and lumber guilds are the only ones who so far have responded. The first three agree in thinking that foreigners should be admitted, giving as their reason that in the event of foreigners carrying on similar businesses without belonging to the guilds, it will prove disadvantageous to the Japanese merchants. The Tea Guild thinks it advisable to exclude foreigners, on the ground that as the foreigners are buyers and Japanese are sellers, they have conflicting interests.

A Yokohama contemporary remarks that the arrival of the British battleships *Victoria* and *Pelorus* was a welcome sight to Yokohamites, as it reminded them of the good old times when men of war visited the port and annually spent thousands of dollars among the dealers. The stringent harbour regulations it is said are greatly to blame for the less frequent visits, as the anchorage for the men of war is exposed, and in bad weather it is nearly impossible to go and come from the ships, and with the smaller craft it is considered unsafe. The Japanese authorities may know what they are doing, but to the casual observer, it looks strange to see a sea wall made to protect shipping while but few vessels are inside and the many are compelled to remain outside. If outside the breakwater is a safe anchorage now, we do not see why the breakwater was built. In no other part of the world are vessels deprived of such a shelter, and in waters where typhoons are so frequent, it seems to us that it is very strange such protection is denied.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

LONDON, May 3rd.
The *Times* state that the Anglo-Russian Agreement provides for the maintenance of a British Chief Engineer and Financial Controller for the Northern Railway to Shan-hai-Kwan beyond which the line will be under Chinese Control.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

The *New York Herald* states that Siam has ceded the province of Luang-Prabang to France who now abandons Chantabun to the neutral zone.

THE QUEEN RETURNS TO ENGLAND.

The Queen has started from Cimiez on her homeward journey.

THE BUDGET
The Budget has passed its second reading in the House of Commons.

ITALY.

The Italian Cabinet has resigned. General Pelloux stated that as the debate showed a large minority was opposed to the Chinese policy, it was consequently futile to prolong a discussion which would impair Italian prestige.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Observatory report says:—On the 5th at 11.55 a.m. The barometer is rising on the E. coast of China, falling on the S. coast. A slight depression appears to have passed from the continent and to be now lying in the N. part of the Sea of Japan. Gradients slight, but increasing in S. China, with freshening monsoon in the Formosa Channel and on the S. coast. FORECAST: Moderate or fresh N.E. winds; fair at first, probably some rain later.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE band of the Hongkong Regiment will play at the Hongkong Hotel to-morrow (Saturday) evening from 8.30 to 9.30.

FOR having over the registered number in Chinese lodging houses, two Chinamen were fined \$5 each at the Magistracy this morning.

A JAPANESE, for hiring a chair coolie in the morning, was this morning at the Magistracy fined \$4 and had to *quash* the coolie one dollar.

THE crew of H.M.S. *Undaunted*, together with most of his officers, are to be turned over to the *Tamoo* for a time while repairs are in progress upon their own vessel.

THE Artilleryman who caused the disturbance in the streets last night, a description of which "A Looker-on" sends us, was brought before the Magistracy this morning and fined \$5.

FIVE Chinese laundrymen were brought up at the Magistracy this morning for having over the prescribed number of men sleeping on the premises between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., and fined \$15 each.

WE hear that, in the event of the *Perseus* arriving here, Commodore Powell will be required to hand down his broad pennant during her stay in port, owing to naval etiquette forbidding the Commodore's flag being flown in the presence of an officer senior to him, Captain Lambton being senior to the present Commodore.

THE *Universal Gazette* says it is reported that at the attack recently made upon Colonel Pottinger's surveying party in Szechuen by the Chinese, six or seven of the party were wounded, including a few foreigners, and the Chinese interpreter, who was shot in the back. It is further alleged that three of them have since died from the injuries they received.

REAR-ADMIRAL C. C. CARPENTER, U. S. N., retired, committed suicide on April 1st in a sanitarium at Boston. Rear-Admiral Carpenter was called from the retired list to active duty in charge of the naval yard at Portsmouth N. H., during the Spanish war, while Commodore Remy was on duty at Key West. He commanded the U. S. Asiatic squadron in 1894.

CAPTAIN Oyama, who has been commissioned to bring home the new Japanese battleship *Hatsuse*, which is being built in England, and Captain Togo, who has been appointed to bring home the armoured cruiser *Yakumo*, under construction in Germany, leave for Europe by the N.Y.K. steamer *Kawachi-Maru* from Yokohama on the 6th inst. They will be accompanied by other naval officers.

CHRIST Church, Yokohama, has been sold to Messrs G. H. Macy & Co. of New York. We understand that the price paid was 35,000 yen, the Trustees to have both the Church and parsonage buildings free of cost. As the latter is an first-class condition and can be easily moved to the site of the new Church, the sale is really a very good one, and with the 18,000 yen already subscribed a fine new building on the bluff is sure to be the result of the transaction.

THE semi-final for the Championship in the Cricket Club's Lawn Tennis Tournament will be played to-morrow afternoon, between Captain Langhorne and Mr. Pinckney, play commencing at half-past four. The winner of this tie will have to meet Mr. H. Humphreys, who has worked into the final. On Monday afternoon the semi-final in the double handicap will be played, when Viscount Suidale and Major Griffin (over 15.5) will meet W. Mayson and W. King (receive 2-6 15).

MAYERS at present appear to be going from bad to worse with regard to our rainfall. The total amount which fell in April was much below the average, and, so far, May has not brought us any addition to our water supply. We understand that the Naval Authorities are already busy selecting a site for a reservoir in the new territory for the supply of the fleet, and we trust that the Civil Authorities will follow their lead and see what can be done for thirsty Hongkong. The water question is one that cannot be allowed to wait.

THE opening match of the ninth Australian Cricket Eleven in England commences on Monday next, the 8th inst., at the Crystal Palace, against the South of England, whose team will be selected from the following:—W. G. Grace, K. S. Ranjitsinhji, J. R. Mason, C. B. Fry, C. L. Townsend, G. L. Jessop, Abel, Hayward, Lockwood, Brockwell, Board, and J. T. Hearne. The *Times*, referring to the Australian team, states that the recent wonderful batting and bowling feats, which have been performed in the colonies, indicates that the Englishmen will have a severe task to recover their lost honours. Mr. Stoddart, one of England's most scientific and expert batsmen, does not intend to play in first-class matches during the coming season.

THE reports submitted to the Adjutant-General of the United States Army show that, between the 1st of May, 1898, and the 18th of February, this year, 329 men of the American troops were killed in action; 125 died of their wounds, and 5,277 died of disease in the United States or in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

THE following will be the rates of exchange between foreign currencies and Haikuan Taels for the levy of *ad valorem* duties during the month of May, 1899:

£ 10 2 9 1-16th - £1 Hk. Tls. 6.52
Francs 347 Hk. Tls. 1.53 Francs 53.87
Marks 281 Hk. Tls. 1.35 Mark 13.44
Gold 8 66 5/8 Gold 8 Hk. Tls. 1.35

THE gaiety of Shanghai has been permanently enhanced by the return of Mr. W. G. Bayne, who returned to Shanghai by the *Salazir* after many years' absence, to succeed Mr. A. Ross as Secretary of the North-China Insurance Co. The *Japan Mail* of the 25th ult. says: "A large number of residents assembled on the Hatlo yesterday to say farewell to Mr. W. G. Bayne, who left by the *Doric* for Shanghai. The gathering bore eloquent testimony to Mr. Bayne's great popularity in Yokohama, and to regret the community feels in losing him." The return of Mr. Bayne to Shanghai will be welcomed by the Amateur Dramatic Society, for he is one of the best amateurs in the East.

SEVERAL sales of Crown land have been effected during the week. On Monday Garden Lot No. 5, which is situated at Wanchai and comprises 5,700 square feet, was sold to Mr. Allen of the Naval Yard for \$395, which is \$25 above the up-est price; annual rent \$32. On Tuesday Inland Lot No. 1,328, which is situated about Pokfulam Conduit and contains 20,000 square feet, was bought by Mr. A. Denison for \$2,425 up-est price \$2,400; annual rent \$18. A lot 25,000 square feet in the same locality was purchased by Dr. Bateson Wright for \$3,025 \$25 above up-est; annual rent \$172. On Wednesday (Hung Hom Inland Lot No. 221, South of Temple) and which contains 6,750 square feet, was bought by Mr. Chan Ying Chung for \$500 up-est price \$500; annual rent \$100.

A MATCH has been arranged to take place on the Association Range, Kowloon, next Saturday between teams from the Navy, Royal Engineers, Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Hongkong Volunteers, commencing at noon. The Royal Artillery have not been able to get together a team. There was some talk of making this a regular Corps championship competition for a suitable trophy, but Saturday's "shoot" will be simply a friendly affair. Spectators are invited to attend. The shooting will probably finish between 5 and 6 p.m. It is expected the following will shoot for the Volunteers:—Captain Chapman, Sergeant-Dunn, Brown, Sergeant McNeil, Sergeant Rutter, Sergeant Skelton, Sergeant Hart, Corporal Goo, Gunner Stewart, Gunner Macdonald, Gunner Toller, with Sergeant Marshall and Lieutenant Macdonald as reserves.

WE have received, says the *M. C. Daily News*, the 22nd Annual Report of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, known as the Hamburg-American Line, from which we learn that this prosperous and enterprising corporation now ranks highest in the list of Shipping Companies, having a fleet of 74 ocean steamers, with a registered tonnage of 329,110, and an accompanying fleet of river steamers, lighters, etc., of 13,576 tons. In all directions great expansion in their volume of trade is shown. Of their 74 steamers, 14 are on the stocks or in the hands of the builders and are to be completed during the year. Unlike the N.D.L., up till now they have never received State aid or a subsidy of any kind; therefore it is the more interesting to find them declaring a dividend of 8 per cent on their working capital of M. 50,000,000. The gross earnings amount to M. 11,659,522.74, to which is added M. 3,109,307.29 derived from the sale of some of their older vessels, thus making a total of M. 14,768,830.03. From this is deducted M. 519,000 as interest on debentures, and M. 10,824,118.69 for depreciation and Reserve Fund, leaving a net profit of M. 4,125,711.34, of which M. 4,000,000 is absorbed for dividends, and the balance carried over. The employees are not forgotten, a sum of M. 167,795.87 having been contributed to their fund for the sick, incapacitated, and superannuated. The Hispano-American war, while temporarily interfering with the ocean carrying trade, enabled them to dispose at high figures of two of their well-known old ocean greyhounds—namely, the *Columbia* and the *Neomanna*,—with the proceeds of which they are now having a vessel of 16,000 tons register built at the Vulcan Works, Stettin, equal to their combined capacity and it is expected with a speed in excess of the fastest Atlantic liner. She is to be named the *Deutschland* and is to be ready at the beginning of the season of 1900, in time to participate in the passenger traffic during the run of the Paris Exhibition. They have also sold the *Scandia*, *Gothia*, *Sveonia*, *Dalcarlia*, *Virginia*, *Bohemia*, and *Moravia*, all having fetched good prices. At the end of the present year two new steamers of 10,250 tons register, which will be called the *Hamburg* and the *Kaiserhof*, will be placed on the Hamburg-Shanghai run, to which a mail subsidy will be given by the Government. Besides the three vessels mentioned two steamers of 13,000 tons register are in course of construction—namely the *Graf Waldersee* and the *Patricia*, sister ships to the well-known *Pennsylvania*. The German yards all being full, it was found necessary to purchase three vessels from English firms; there are the *Bengalia*, *Bosnia*, and *Belhania*, 6,700 tons register. Three other vessels, of over 10,000 tons register, that are fast approaching completion are the *Belgavia*, *Belgia*, and *Belgravia*, designed principally for the general carrying trade; these eight vessels are twin screw, the remaining six of a tonnage from 4,900 are to be single screw vessels. The report concludes with a laudatory mention of the late director Mr. Wm. Robertson, who died on the 23rd of December last, and who had held office for fourteen years.

H.M.S. *Woodlark* was christened on the morning of the 1st instant, at Shanghai, by Mrs. Montgomerie and most successfully launched, gliding into the water like a bird. The function was arranged so hurriedly that there was no time to send out invitations, and there were only present H.M. Consul-General Mr. Byron Brennan, Capt. Montgomerie, R.N., and one or two others.

THE *Universal Gazette* contradicts the rumour that China has enlisted the help of Japan with regard to troops to resist the Germans in Shanghai, the *canard* having sprung from the fact that a number of Censors lately suggested to the Government the advisability of seeking the assistance of a neighbouring country to oppose the danger of the German invasion of Shanghai, which proposal, was however rejected by the Chinese Government.

CAPTAIN JOHN TRACY WILDOUGHBY, one of the leaders in the Jamieson Raid, who was given a captaincy by Earl Grey in the force of the British South African Company, was discharged ill the other day at Nagasaki from the British sailing ship *Ferriside* on which he came out from Cardiff as a sailor before the mast. He was a B.A. before, but is prodder now to be able to add A.D. to his name, and he is not at all ashamed of his experiences.

With the idea of accommodating the Press in the work of railway investigations and for travelling in general, the Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Company has lately distributed complimentary tickets good for all time on its lines among 18 papers and 4 news agencies. The *Japan Times* learns that the example will shortly be followed by the Japan, the Sanyo, the Kyushu, the Koku, the Sohu, the Osaka, the Hoku and other Railway Companies.

THE *Japan Times* reports that a Buddhist monastery, more than 1,200 years old, has been destroyed. The temple referred to is Choryo-ji in Kami Koni, Mino Prefecture. Of many costly treasures in its possession the most valuable was the Issaikyo, or the collection of all the sacred writings of Buddhism, presented to the monastery by Emperor Shomu, which is said to have been brought direct from India. It was the only set in the country. Only 154 of the 265 cases of these books were saved. The seven sacred images which had eyes set in diamonds were also burned. It is said 10,000 yen were offered once by an American for them. The lost treasures being mostly of precious metals, their ashes are being sifted under the supervision of the police. The entire damage is estimated at two million yen.

A CRUSADE against dogs has been commenced at Nagasaki without a word of warning. Our Nagasaki contemporary says that two Japanese armed with sticks—miniature trees in fact—accompanied by a police officer started on a tour of dog-killing, and several of the animals were rendered lifeless. The crusade commenced on the 13rd ult. and the work has been continued without interruption. It is said that over 100 dogs have been killed, not a small number of which were highly prized by their owners; and yet no notice whatever was given of this high-handed action, till the 25th, when a notice was sent to the foreign Consuls apprising them for the first time that it was the decision of the Japanese authorities to "kill or destroy" all dogs found at large without collar bands, with name and address of the owners. This action, says the Secretary, "is to prevent the spread of rabies in the Settlement." It is asked of the Consuls that they in turn notify their nationals, so that the public might be informed of the intention of the Japanese authorities.

CLAIM AGAINST THE CAPTAIN OF THE "HERMIONE."

AT the Supreme Court this morning, before His Honour W. M. Goodman (Acting Chief Justice), with Commander Hastings as assessor, Wong Fat Choo, owner of a Kwong Loong Tai junk, sought to recover \$8,000 from Captain Callaghan, damages sustained by collision.

Mr. Shade (instructed by Mr. Gedge) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Dennis) for defendant. It was stated on behalf of plaintiff that at about five o'clock on the afternoon of the 6th of March plaintiff's junk left Chi Tong Point in company with another. They steered south. At about half-past one a steamer was sighted ahead. Those on board the junk shouted, but without effect, the steamer striking the junk on the port side midship and capsizing her. Of the 16 persons on board 11 were lost.

Plaintiff and one of his sailors gave evidence. Case proceeding.

MANILA.

A private correspondent writing from Manila to the *Staffs Times*, on the 13th instant, says:—Business is flourishing. Every ship from America brings a number of civilians. New business houses are being opened everywhere. Professional men, lawyers, doctors, and dentists are establishing themselves, and they will all require clerks and assistants. At present there is a shortage about to start electric railways, and an enterprising syndicate is bidding for the Escalita with a view to the demolition of the present buildings and the erection of new ones. Now that it is known that gold and other minerals are to be found in the islands a rush of prospectors and miners is expected. It is alleged that a dentist, who went there from Singapore a few months ago, makes \$2,000 a month.

SHRAPNEL SENSATIONS.

One of the most embarrassing things connected with a modern battlefield is the shrapnel shells. There is not so much danger in their fire as in that of modern musketry, but the sound of the shrapnel is much more disconcerting and demoralizing. Its wild "wheew-wheew-wheew" suggests missiles falling all the air and coming from all directions. A surgeon relates that, as he was standing in front of a hospital tent near where two wounded coloured "troopers" were lying, he heard one of them say as a shrapnel wound past: "I don't care for dem Mauser bullets, for when you hear one of 'em, you know it's done gone for you. But I should like to know where the cannon is, so I can shoot dem camp kilties full of 'em!"

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

SCOTCH VOLUNTEER COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.
SIR,—Referring to the letter of our worthy Vice-President on this subject of date 2nd April, and to the subsequent letters in your columns, I have now to inform you that certain good men and true have responded to the appeal by sending in their names for enrolment, but not so far, in sufficient numbers to justify any decided action to be taken.

The Company proposed need not be entirely composed of Scotsmen. Our English and Irish brothers are made heartily welcome. For the information of *Britannians* there I may mention that the authorities have authorized an Infantry Company of, say, 50 men and officers, and it seems to me, under the changing conditions of an expanding Hongkong, that an Infantry unit of the Volunteer Corps has certain points to recommend it. I shall be pleased to receive additional names of recruits for this Company.

Faithfully yours,

JAMES M. FORBES,

Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong St. Andrew's Society.

Hongkong, May 4th, 1899.

AN OBSTREPEROUS ARTILLERYMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

SIR,—My attention was attracted last night by the sound of a policeman's whistle in the direction of Pedder Street, so I rushed into that thoroughfare and saw outside the Hongkong Hotel a big crowd of people, who were intent upon watching the hotel Sikh watchmen making an attempt to take an artilleryman to the police station. Although the soldier was very much incensed, he whacked those Sikhs and a Chinese policeman until he fell exhausted. Then the watchmen pounced upon him and managed to get him quietly along until Queen's Road was reached, but here he broke loose and ran for the help of three soldiers, who, I think, must have been picked. The Sikhs, failing to recognise who the soldiers were, picked into them with their sticks, evidently under the impression that they were attempting to rescue the artilleryman. There was rushing and shouting, whistle-blowing and a general mêlée. One of the watchmen used his stick freely, and I saw him hit a European a nasty crack (it was a fortunate thing for that watchman that it was not myself he struck—the next moment he would have wondered what had got hold of him). Then up came three blue-jackets—little fellows, they were, and they did a fearful, I can assure you. One Chinese policeman's lantern was sent in fragments along the street, and their hats rolled in all directions. The artilleryman by this time had been pulled hither and thither, and his underclothing were in ribbons and his body bare. The police and Sikhs managed to get the soldier into Wellington Street, and some native police tried to bar the blue-jackets from passing. One of the Jacks let out his left hand but missed the policeman and struck his comrade. This got Jack's ire up and he went for the policeman for all he was worth, the guardians of the peace eventually making themselves scarce. The soldier in the end was taken to the General Police station, but it seems very little for the ability of the Sikhs and police—about eight in number—in getting one man to the station; and the way in which they served the soldier was disgusting in the extreme.

A LOOKER-ON.

Hongkong, May 5th, 1899.

H. G. M. S. "ILTIS."

PENANG, April 25th.

A visit to H.G.M.S. *Ilitis* yesterday afternoon, fully confirmed the good opinion which had been formed of that vessel. Commander Lans, in spite of his many engagements on shore, was good enough to remain on board, receive his visitors, and himself conduct them over the *Ilitis*. He explained that the vessels have been constructed more especially for moving up and down the estuaries, creeks, and lagoons in China. No armament has

WATER RETURN.

Level and Storage of Water in Reservoirs on the 1st May.

LEVEL.	1898.	1899.
Tytan.....	135 ft. 10 in. below	65 ft. 4 in. below
Pokfulam.....	147 ft. 6 in. below	135 ft. 3 in. below
STORAGE GALLONS.		
Tytan.....	148,100,000	42,100,000
Pokfulam.....	34,980,000	4,760,000
Total.....	183,080,000	46,860,000
Consumption of Water in the City of Victoria and Hill District during the month of April.		
1898.	1899.	
Estimated population.....	194,500	200,000
Consumption per head.....	15.4	9.3
per day.....		
Consumption of Water in Kowloon Peninsula during the month of April.		
1898.	1899.	
Estimated population.....	25,600	26,800
Consumption per head.....	6.9	8.2
per day.....		

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

R. D. ORMSBY,
Water Authority.

SHANGHAI SPRING RACES.

THIRD DAY, THURSDAY, 4TH MAY.
The GREAT NORTHERN PLATE, value, Tls. 125; second pony, Tls. 25; for ponies that have run at this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; winner of one race at this meeting, 7 lbs. extra; two or more races, 10 lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. Seven furlongs.
Beachnut..... 1
Sandstorm..... 2
Hermes..... 3
Time, 1 min. 49 1/2 secs.

The MASONIC CLUB CHALLENGE CUP, value, Tls. 350; presented by the members of the Masonic Club; for China ponies, being bona fide griffins at date of entry; to be won on two consecutive meetings, or three times in all, by ponies, the bona fide property of the same owner or owners; entrance, Tls. 10; 70 per cent to the first pony, 20 per cent to the second pony, and 10 per cent to third pony until the cup is finally won, when the second pony 25 per cent of the entrance fees; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a quarter.
Alair..... 1
Thorn Rose..... 2
Tiber..... 3
Time, 2 mins. 42 1/2 secs.

The SHANGHAI STAKES, a forced entry of Tls. 5, for subscription griffins entered at this meeting; first pony to receive 70 per cent, second pony 20 per cent, third pony 10 per cent; weight for inches as per scale; unplaced ponies allowed 5 lbs. One mile.
Olan..... 1
Diana Forget..... 2
Pickle..... 3
Time, 2 min. 12 1/4 secs.

The PART-MILLION CUP, value, Tls. 100 added to a sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each; second pony to receive 30 per cent, and the third pony 10 per cent of the stakes; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; griffins at date of entry allowed 7 lbs.; a penalty of 7 lbs. for non-starters and winners at this meeting; entrance Tls. 5. One mile and a half.
Scotsman..... 1
Rio Grande..... 2
Standard Rose..... 3
Canopus..... 4
Dead heat.

The YANGTZE STAKES, value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies that have run at this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; non-winners at this meeting; allowed 7 lbs.; entrance Tls. 5. Two miles.
Corbie..... 1
Sinbad..... 2
Impact..... 3
Time, 4 mins. 34 3/4 secs.

The MANDARIN STAKES, value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; non-winners at this meeting; allowed 7 lbs.; entrance Tls. 5. One mile.
The Downcast..... 1
Rafin..... 2
Argyle..... 3
Time, 2 min. 42 secs.

The CONSOLATION CUP, value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 50; third pony, Tls. 25; for ponies that have run at this meeting and not won a race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance Tls. 5. Once round.
The Outcast..... 1
Breifless..... 2
Sandstorm..... 3
Time, 2 min. 37 1/2 secs.

The CHAMPION SWEETSTAKES, value, Tls. 350; second pony, Tls. 100; third pony, Tls. 50; a forced entry for ponies; weight for inches as per scale; optional for the winners of subscription griffins races; weight for inches as per scale. Each pony entered to pay five per cent. of the value of the stakes and prizes won. One mile and a quarter.
Loyalty..... 1
Calisto..... 2
Beachnut..... 3
Time, 2 min. 37 secs.

THE LATE MR. COOK.

Mr. J. M. Cook, the head of the world-famous tourist agency, who died recently, wrote an article which terminated thus: "This ends my public career as a personal conductor, which commenced in 1844 as a small boy with a long wand, assisting the guidance of 500 other small children from Leicester to Epsom by special train five miles." Since then I have taken part in conducting almost all classes and conditions of people to all the chief parts of the globe, and I think I may fairly claim to be satisfied with concluding such a career with the German Emperor in Palestine.

For ten years—from 1865 to 1875—he rarely slept in a bed, and he annually journeyed something like 55,000 miles. It was during this period that he invented the system of international travelling tickets, and laid the foundation of the tourist business in Egypt. Last year, the firm had in operation over 40,000 sets of international tickets, covering 3,500,000 miles of railways and waterways. The services Mr. John Cook rendered to the Government in the transport of troops and stores for the Nile operations of 1884-5 are well-known. In what manner he has opened up Egypt and promoted the prosperity of that country everybody knows who has ever spent a season there.

THE NEWHANG RAILWAY QUESTION.

The comments of the leading London papers on the action of the Czar's Government in withdrawing all opposition to the Newhang Railway loan afford interesting reading. The *Standard* considers there is no reason to distrust the accuracy of the information that the abandonment of the opposition to the Northern Extension Railway contract is the outcome of negotiations between the Russian and British Governments. It adds: "It is gratifying that an incident should be closed which might have assumed very serious proportions had the Ministers of the Czar adhered to the line taken by the accredited representative. Nor would it be well to inquire too curiously into the history of the affair. Did M. de Giers succumb to the climatic influence to which the temperaments of the Muscovite agents in China is susceptible, and become a victim of excess of zeal; or have his principals on the Neva been convinced by Lord Salisbury's arguments that their Minister made a mistake? Some future Blue-book will give the answer. Meanwhile, it is a distinct gain that our view has prevailed. It is in this instance, we had allowed a remonstrance from Russia, backed or not by express menace to terrify the Chinese Government into breaking faith with its a few bawls would have been dealt to our influence."

The *Times* sees in the withdrawal further proof "that a little firmness and straightforward language at a critical moment can never impair the relations between two great and self-respecting Powers actuated by an equal desire for a friendly understanding." We see in what has happened the triumph of the pacific and conciliatory elements in Russian statesmanship, and above all, the practical expression of the Czar's own determination to meet this country half way in the removal of all the regrettable misunderstandings which have hitherto kept Russia and England apart." One of the papers, the *Daily Graphic*, saved the occasion to read a lesson to some of the English newspapers on the folly of attempting to persuade the public that the settlement of the Newhang dispute besides being a great triumph for British diplomacy, was a humiliation for Russia. "Russia backs down in China." "Russia gives way to England." These and similar lines were placarded by certain evening newspapers all over London to the confusion of every decent person who believes in the dignity of the English Press and its general superiority over its foreign rivals. Evaluation of this kind adds the *Graphic*, "is not only vulgar, it is stupid. Its social intercourse such a breach of good manners would nowhere be tolerated. Why should it be allowed in the journalistic treatment of political questions? It is stupid because in the first place, the Yellow authors of this sort of swagger always incur the risk of afterwards finding that there is not much to crow over, and in the second place, it causes pain and irritation which is not unlikely to show itself in fresh difficulties." The exception is well taken, and it is to be hoped that the remonstrance will not be without effect. But so long as the public at large, and even the intelligent section of the public, allow themselves to be swayed by swagger and an attitude of hostility, and bluff, so long will a certain class of journalists continue to offend.

DEATH OF BARONESS HIRSCH.

Paris, April 1st.—Baroness Hirsch, widow of the late Baron Hirsch, the Heligian philanthropist, is dead.

Baroness Hirsch leaves several million pounds sterling, chiefly bequeathed to charities.

Baron Hirsch left an estate of £2,500,000, much of which was bequeathed to charity, and afterward dispersed by the Baroness. Millions have been spent in colonizing large bodies of Russian refugees in the United States and the Argentine Republic. Baroness de Hirsch was quite as remarkable a personage as her husband. Worth many millions in her own right, she gave as freely of her wealth as that of her husband. She was a daughter of the late Senator Bischoffheim of Brussels, head of the great banking house of Bischoffheim & Goldschmidt, that financed the Erie Railway reorganization in 1871. She married Baron Hirsch when 23, and was of great help to him in all his stirring financial undertakings as well as in his splendid philanthropic plans.

SIXTY DAYS ADRIAT AT SEA.

Honolulu, March 26th. Eight days under bare poles, carried along by the wind and sea at the rate of five knots an hour, with anchors gone, fore-topmast wrecked and useless, water supply gone by the rasks burning from friction between them and their stanchions, as the vessel tossed and pitched, such was the predicament of the Japanese schooner Kishimi Maru, with seventeen souls aboard, which put into this port in distress on the 22nd.

She sailed from Tokyo December 31 on a shark fishing cruise, and January 17th was struck by a westerly gale, which drove her before it. Unable to beat back to Japan against this wind, the schooner was forced to try to make Wake Island and eventually made Honolulu.

A NEW AMERICAN NAVAL GUN.

SOMETHING TO LOOK CREATION.

NEW YORK, April 2nd.

A *San* special from Washington says: There are now being manufactured at the Naval gun factory here rifles of all sizes for the ships authorized, which are expected to develop far higher qualities than those obtaining for ordnance of equal size at present installed on ships. They will be heavier, more costly, and great superior to the best guns of the *Oregon* and other types of new vessels. None of the larger sizes have yet been assembled, but designs were completed several months ago, by which twelve, eight and sixes will be more effective weapons than guns of the same calibre now afloat.

One of the first pieces completed is a six-inch rifle which will shortly be tested at a Naval proving-ground down the Potomac. The present six-inch rifle has a velocity not exceeding 2100 feet per second for its projectile, while the new piece, with its enlarged powder charge, will have not less than 3000 feet velocity, and the eight-inch will almost equal it. A rapid-fire six-inch gun with 3000 feet velocity will equal in effectiveness the old slow-fire eight-inch now mounted on the *Baltimore* and *Boston*.

In addition to the vast amount of work the ship is doing for the new ships, it is engaged also in converting all six-inch guns of slow-fire pattern into quick-firers. The difference between the two is very great, and it is intended that every vessel now mounting slow-fire guns shall be equipped with the most modern mechanical appliances, as fast as batteries can be dismounted and guns sent here for the change. So far, the vessels of the *Admiral Sampson*'s command have new sixes, and some with Admiral Dewey's fleet, the *Albatross*, *Philadelpia* and a number of other vessels still retain the same old batteries mounted when they were first constructed.

THE SAMOAN CRISIS.

BOMBARDMENT BY THE WARSHIPS.
INTERESTING PARTICULARS.

News with regard to the Crisis in Samoa reaches us that the Admiralty has decided to delay the treaty Admiral Krantz command of the U.S. *Philadelpia* summoned the Consuls and senior naval officers to meet aboard his flagship. He there read a memorandum calling on the Consul of the three Powers to stop the Provisional Government's illegal acts, and make peace in Samoa. "The English and American Consuls agreed, also the captains of the U.S. warship *Philadelpia* and H.M.S. *Porpoise*."

The week previous the admiral issued a proclamation stating the result of the meetings, and disavowing the Provisional Government. He called upon Mataafa and the British and American Consuls to return to their homes. He also stated that the prisoners were to go quietly to their homes without molestation. He guaranteed the protection of the naval force in harbour to all who obeyed, and threatened to use the same force against those disobeying the proclamation. He also upheld the action of the Chief Justice. A copy of these decisions was sent to Mataafa, who evacuated Muliutu, and took up a position further inland. "The German Consul issued a counter proclamation declaring the Admiral's proclamation untrue, and upholding the Provisional Government. The Mataafa men now began to assemble in force, and hummed the town in on the landward side. There was great excitement in the streets as the people read the rival proclamations."

"Admiral Krantz then sent another letter to Mataafa. This was ignored by the rebels, who barricaded the roads, and made trenches within the municipality. They also took possession of some British houses. The English Consul, Admiral's flag lieutenant, and a brother Lieutenant Gault were intercepted by some armed natives, who were in possession of M. Giers' house. An armed rebel covered the flag lieutenant with a rifle, when the Chief and Lieutenant Gault drew their revolvers and chased their assailants off. All three displayed great bravery. An American lieutenant, who was married, on Wednesday, together with the Admiral's secretary, went with a full letter to Mataafa to clear out, but was stopped by a guard before proceeding half-way. The letter was taken by a guard, and an impudent reply was returned. Later on Captain Sturdee took Taylor, a half-cast spy, prisoner. The rebels were allowed till 1 o'clock to evacuate the municipality, but they ignored this, and half an hour before the signal for bombardment was given they made an attack on the British and British consular premises, beginning the war."

At a clock on the 14th of March the Admiral opened fire on the distant Mataafa villages with the six-inch guns of the U.S. ship *Philadelpia*. H.M. ships *Porpoise* and *Hermes* quickly followed. There was the greatest difficulty in locating the positions of the enemy, as the whole of the island is covered with dense forest, but excellent shooting was made on some shore villages, the houses of which were quickly in flames.

An unfortunate accident happened early in the afternoon. A defective shell from the *Philadelpia* burst close to the American Consulate. The pieces smashed through the house, tearing the roof off the verandah and smashing the crockery and furniture table. Some natives who were outside had a narrow escape. Private venge had his leg shattered below the knee, and the limb had to be amputated. Some of the others were knocked over, but not injured. One man's rifle was smashed to pieces in his hand. The bombardment continued slowly during the afternoon.

The Mataafa men now reformed themselves, and entrenched Muliutu, where 2000 friendly natives, women and children, were taking refuge. Nearly all the consular staffs taken refuge on H.M.S. *Porpoise* and H.M.S. *Kayak*, which were present. It was a strange sight. The Americans operated from Muliutu, with the Colt automatic gun, firing 400 shots a minute, also a three-pounder gun, and shrapnel shot. It is not yet known if many natives were killed.

The guard on shore was doubled, and scouts located the enemy in some dense bush inside the municipality, in different positions. Lieutenant Gault kept them on the move all night with the Nordenfjeldt gun and shrapnel shell from the seven pounder, but at 2 a.m. the rebels under cover of darkness, crept down the Tivoliroad, killing two British mounted men, and did not next morning. Their tracks have craved up in the dark, and they must have been seen.

The same night a sergeant of Marines on the *Porpoise* was accidentally shot through the legs by his own sentry.

CONTINUATION OF THE BOMBARDMENT.

On Thursday the shelling was continued. Another defective shell from the *Philadelpia* burst in the harbour. A piece went through the Catholic Church and another piece through the German Consulate, smashing the crockery. The Germans then left for the warship *Porpoise*. There was no firing from the rebels. At night an American marine was shot dead by a Mauser bullet while at his post near the American Consulate. Bullets peppered the British Consulate all night long. The enemy could not be seen in the dense jungle, but the rifles and Nordenfjeldts replied.

Lieutenant Gault had a narrow escape from the enemy's bullets. Another Britisher was shot in the foot by a sentry. The troops were out all night in the rain, and reinforcements were urgently needed, as the position of the town was critical. Bullets were being fired at the warships under cover of the darkness. Some spies and Mataafa prisoners were arrested, but it is impossible to say how many were killed, and better news for Mataafa, Muliutu, Tonu, or New Zealand, so as not to hamper the operations. The bombardment has been going on for eight days, and is still proceeding. "The American and British troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder."

H. M. S. *Porpoise* shelled the villages east and west of Adia, capturing many boats.

LONDON, March 29th.

The United States Government has given an assurance to Germany that Rear-Admiral Krantz, who is now at Samoa in command of the cruiser *Philadelpia*, will only act, if emergency arises, in accordance with the decision of the majority of the official representatives of the three Powers at Samoa. The Washington authorities add that a unanimous ratification or adjustment of the Samoan question will be sought at the earliest moment. In the meantime, the instructions given to Admiral Krantz are that he shall act in a conciliatory spirit.

RIGHT-DAY'S BOMBARDMENT. March 21st.

The captain of H.M. S. *Kayak* has issued an order that all the women and children; and those not actively engaged in the war, and better news for Mataafa, Muliutu, Tonu, or New Zealand, so as not to hamper the operations. The bombardment has been going on for eight days, and is still proceeding. "The American and British troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder."

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LATE TELEGRAMS.

A DANCER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTNER'S SAFETY.

NEW YORK, April 2nd.

A *San* cable from Vienna says: A curious case was tried this week. A young lady asked heavy compensation from a young man with whom she recently danced at a masked ball, and who allowed her to fall so heavily that she sustained severe internal injury. The defendant declared that his partner was a poor dancer, and that it was difficult to guide her through the crowded room. She rejoined that the defendant had attempted some new steps which he had seen in an opera ballet and desired to imitate. He flung his legs about and went through some kind of Russian bent-knee dance, in the execution whereof the girl slipped and fell heavily. The judge decided that the man could not be held responsible for the safety of his partner and the case was dismissed.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S BROTHER DEAD.

LONDON, April 2nd.

Richard Chamberlain, brother of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, died in London to-day. Richard Chamberlain at one time represented the west division of the borough of Islington, London, in Parliament in the Conservative interest. Since his retirement he had devoted his attention to managing the extensive Chamberlain properties at Birmingham.

SHOT DEAD IN MISTAKE FOR THE PRISONER.

Yesterday, a madman, whose name has been ascertained to be M. Azoul, shot dead a private gentleman named M. Tourneil on the Boulevard. Azoul, it is stated, mistook his victim for M. Lombet, the French President.

WICK OF A FRENCH BARQUE—25 LIVES LOST.

April 2d.

Another serious shipping disaster has been caused by the heavy fogs which are prevailing on the British coasts. The *Marchand Lannet*, a large new French barque, had left Swansea with a cargo of coal for San Francisco on her maiden voyage, when she was enveloped in a very dense fog, and completely lost her bearings. Eventually she ran ashore on the coast of Pembrokeshire, and became a total wreck. The whole of the crew, 25 in all, were drowned.

NORWAY'S WARLIKE ACTIVITY.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent at Gothenberg, Sweden, referring to the warlike preparations of Norway, says: "The only possible object of these preparations is to attack Sweden, whose defenses and armaments are inferior and whose infantry are armed with obsolete rifles. Should the Norwegian fleet attack Gothenberg the city must inevitably fall."

PRESIDENT KRUGER AT JOHANNESBURG.

President Kruger, who is visiting Johannesburg, has been welcomed. In addressing a gathering of some persons, he said he discriminated only between loyalty and disloyalty. There must be no bigamy. New-comers must forever their old country if they desired citizenship in the Transvaal. Petitioners who wished to come under another Government were "fishers in troubled waters," and, as such, impeded reform. If they remained loyal, President Kruger said, the full franchise would not be long delayed.

THE TRANSAVAL CREED CONDEMNED BY A CANON OF WESTMINSTER.

A sensation has been caused by a sermon preached at Saint Margaret's Church, Westminster, by the Rev. Joseph Ambridge Robinson, D. D., Canon of Westminster, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, on the subject of the Transvaal Creed. The preacher took for his subject the Transvaal Creed, which he declared was no creed, but a hymn written in a barbarian age, rejoicing at the victory of the Catholics over the Aryans. Nowadays, he said, portions of this creed could not be endorsed. These expressions of opinion by the preacher were distasteful to some members of the congregation, who got up and left the church.

KEILLER'S JAM FACTORY DESTROYED.

April 4th.

A destructive fire has occurred at Silvertown, a suburb of London, on the Thames. The factory of James Keiller and Son, Limited, of Dundee and Silvertown, the well-known manufacturers of marmalade, jams, confectionery, &c., was totally destroyed.

RUSSIAN TROOPS ON THE GERMAN FRONTIER.

Owing to the further massing of Russian troops on the frontier, the Government will ask next session that the German Army be strengthened by the addition of 120,000 men.

AMERICA'S EXPEDITION.

The embassy to Siberia by King Ovent H. of Sweden to make enquiries respecting the fate of Herr Andre's Arctic expedition reports that he is not yet convinced that the story told by the Tunguska tribe, who inhabit the month-tamous district of Yenisek, of the discovery of part of a balloon, three human bodies, and a number of instruments, is a hoax.

THE LOCK-OUT OF PLASTERERS.

In connection with the dispute between the Master Builders' Association with the Plasterers' Union, which has resulted in a lock-out of 2,200 plasterers, a meeting was held in Birmingham last night to consider the difficulty. The meeting, which represented 40,000 workers in the building trade, authorised a conference with the employers. It is probable that the conference will result in a settlement of the difficulty.

ANTARCTIC RESEARCH.

The steam yacht *Belgica*, commanded by Lieutenant de Gerlache, is returning from the Antarctic regions, and has arrived at Punta Arenas in Chili. The vessel was ice-bound for two months.

The commander reports that after visiting the South Shetland Islands his expedition examined the eastern shore of Graham Land, a tract of lofty and continuous land in the Antarctic Ocean, which was discovered in 1832 by Biscoe, who took possession thereof on behalf of Great Britain.

Subsequently the *Belgica* pushed south as far as possible through Weddell Sea. They found that the sea was open water as far south as the active volcanoes.

Much new land was discovered, but the *Belgica* will not return, as originally proposed, for another winter in the Antarctic regions.

A MILLIONAIRE'S WEDDING.

The Vanderbilt wedding, a great social event to which New York society has been looking forward for some months, took place yesterday amid splendid permitted only to millions. The contracting parties were Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt—son of the well-known millionaire of New York, and brother of the Duchess of Marlborough—and Miss Virginia Fair. The ballroom in which the marriage festivities were held was fairly converted into a land of flowers for the occasion, with song birds concealed in the foliage.

THE TRIPOLI HINTERLAND QUESTION.

In view of the objection of the Italian Government to the clause in the Anglo-French African Convention relating to the Tripoli hinterland, the French Government has instructed M. Camille Barrere, the French ambassador in Rome, to assure Italy that if the fate of Tripoli is ever discussed, France's attitude will not be one of hostility to the Italian claims. The Minister was instructed to inform the Italian Government that France had no designs on Tripoli. Mr. Han-

oux, who was Minister of Foreign Affairs in Mr. Melnie's Cabinet in 1896-98, has put forward the suggestion that the Chamber of Deputies should appoint a commission to deal with the question of the French possessions in Africa.

THE ADELPHI TRAGEDY.—SIR HENRY IRVING THREATENED.

The man Richard Arthur Prince, the murderer of Mr. William Terriss, the famous actor, has managed to despatch from the lunatic asylum in which he is confined a letter to Sir Henry Irving, threatening to kill him when he is released.

THE EASTER VESTRIES.

Ritualism was the chief question discussed in the English Church vestries throughout the United Kingdom at their recent Easter meetings.

April 6th.

The conference of the Builders and Plasterers Association has proved to be barren of results owing to the plasterers refusing the demands of the employers not to compel their foreman to join their union.

LORD HALIFAX DENOUNCED.

Lord George Francis Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, in a letter to the newspapers, denounces the action of Lord Halifax, the president of the English Church Union, for defying constituted authority.

Lord George says that high as well as low churchmen ought to repudiate rebellion in the Church.

Further particulars have been received regarding the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, whose arrival at Punta Arenas, in the Straits of Magellan, was reported, yesterday. It is stated that the *Belgica*, the vessel in which Lieut. Gerlache's exploring party were conveyed, visited Hughes Bay and Palmer Land, penetrating the unexplored regions westward of Alexander Land, and reaching latitude 51 deg. 32 min. and longitude 60 deg. The *Belgica* cleared the ice on March 14th. Two members of the expedition have died.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Further interesting experiments in wireless telegraphy are shortly to be made in order to test the distance over which the new system may be worked. It is proposed to utilise the Eiffel Tower in Paris on which to fix instruments to communicate with the South Foreland, off the Kentish coast.

RATIONAL COSTUME IN CYCLING.

The Cycling Touring Club recently presented the landlady of a hotel at Oakham, in Rutlandshire, for refusing to give the Countess Harborough, which, except in the bar parlour where gentlemen were sitting smoking. The person assigned by the landlady for her refusal was that the Countess was wearing "rational" costume. The information was dismissed.

LYTHIAN CLOVE, A PROTECTIVE MEASURE.

According to the remonstrances made by the London *Shoppers' Union* in reference to the wholesale destruction and threatened extinction of quail in Egypt by French and English sportsmen, the French Government has prohibited the exportation of its railway lines of Egyptian quail despatched by French consignees to the London market.

RUSSIAN POLITICS.

The spread of social democracy in Russia is creating serious labour troubles in that country. As the outcome of these industrial disturbances, the military have arrested hundreds of strikers.

DIRE FAMINE IN RUSSIA.

PLASANTS FORCED TO LIVE ON ROOTS AND STRAW.

NEW YORK, March 25th.

A cable to the *Tribune* from London says: Owing to the rigorous press censorship which prevails in the Czar's dominion not much has been heard of the Russian famine. There is no doubt, however, that it has reached most serious and even appalling dimensions. The whole of four great provinces to the east of the River Volga is now involved, and the peasant population, numbering several millions, is reduced to the last extremity of want. West of the Volga the famine district extends almost to Moscow itself. Throughout this large area the failure of crops is said to be more complete than even during the terrible visitation of 1891-92.

The unhappy peasantry are endeavouring to support life on a mixture of weeds, acorns and chopped straw, and are being decimated by the effects of typhus and a excessive cold on constitutions enfeebled by insufficient nourishment.

The Russian Government, notwithstanding previous warnings, has not initiated that of British India in organizing and insuring against famine in times of comparative plenty, and the consequence is that this terrible catastrophe has caught it almost unprepared. Much is being done by private agencies, and the Red Cross has been distributing relief to more than 70,000 persons for the last two months in one province alone, but the Government measures to cope with the distress are still very inadequate. The *Times* notices as significant the fact that in a country where 85 per cent of the population subsists entirely by agriculture the whole expenditure on the agricultural department of the Government is £4,500,000, while the army and navy cost £52,000,000.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 25th.—The newspapers of the city publish pitiable accounts of the condition of the so-called famine districts of Russia, especially Samara, in the eastern part of European Russia. The reports of the Red Cross Society have stated that the horrors of actual starvation, but the society's funds are almost exhausted, and the dire distress, compelling the consumption of all kinds of garbage, has produced an epidemic of terrible mortality from typhus, scurvy and other pestilential diseases.

The peasants are compelled to sell everything and are living in cold, damp and filthy cabins. Weakened by hunger, they fall ready victims of typhus and acute scurvy. Unless the Government gives prompt aid the Volga provinces appear doomed to a repetition of the horrors of 1891 and 1892.

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Intimations.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(THE JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.)



PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATIONS.	SAILING DATES.
SAGAMI MARU J. Nagao	VLADIVOSTOK, VIA SWATOW, AMOI, SHANGHAI, CHEFOO, CHE- MULPO, AND NAGASAKI	THURSDAY, 10th May, at 1 P.M.
MIKE MARU S. Kawamura	KOBE AND YOKOHAMA	SATURDAY, 13th May, at 4 P.M.
YAMAGUCHI MARU	BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO	TUESDAY, 16th May, at Noon.

For further information as to Freight, Passage, Sailings &c., apply at the Company's Local Branch Office at No. 7, Praya Central.

A. S. MIHARA, Manager.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1899.

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BUILD UP THE BODY.

Influences are constantly at work to undermine health. When you lose flesh, take cold easily, become pale and weak, you need building up, so there will be no danger of taking disease.

Scott's Emulsion

Contains all the essential elements that give strength and vitality to the system. It increases the appetite for other food, enriches and warms the blood, assists in making healthy flesh, relieves inflammation of Throat and Lungs, and overcomes all emaciated, weak conditions. Prepared by SCOTT & BOWNE, Limited, London. Sold by all Chemists.

Sole Agents for Hongkong and the Empire of China: WATKINS & CO., Hongkong.

NOTICE.

WHY

ARE POLICIES of the EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY of the UNITED STATES to be preferred before those of any other Company?

BECAUSE Equitable Policies are to the intending assured what Consols are to the investor.

BECAUSE the Equitable is the strongest Life Company in the world, having over 11 Millions sterling of Surplus, and

BECAUSE Surplus not only means financial strength, but is also the fund from which dividends to policyholders are paid.

BECAUSE Dividends to policyholders must be earned before they can be paid, and during the last ten years the Equitable's Surplus Earnings have been larger than those of any other Company.

BECAUSE during the past five years the Equitable has paid each year more than £400,000 in dividends to policyholders. No other Company can point to such a record.

BECAUSE the Policies of the Equitable are paid more promptly than those of any other Company.

AND THEREFORE BECAUSE a man assuring the Equitable secures a contract backed by the Company which is the strongest in the world, which earns greater profits, and which pays its Policies more promptly than any other Company.

Assets, £53,826,937 Stg.
Surplus, £11,939,685 Stg.
F. KIENE,
Acting Manager,
No. 9, Queen's Road, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 21st April, 1899. [549a]

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

FOR ALL
BILIOUS AND NERVOUS DISORDERS
SUCH AS
SICK HEADACHE, CONSTIPATION,
WEAK STOMACH,
IMPAIRED DIGESTION,
DISORDERED LIVER,
AND FEMALE AILMENTS.
ANNUAL SALE SIX MILLION BOXES.
50 Cents per Box.

Prepared only by the Proprietor—

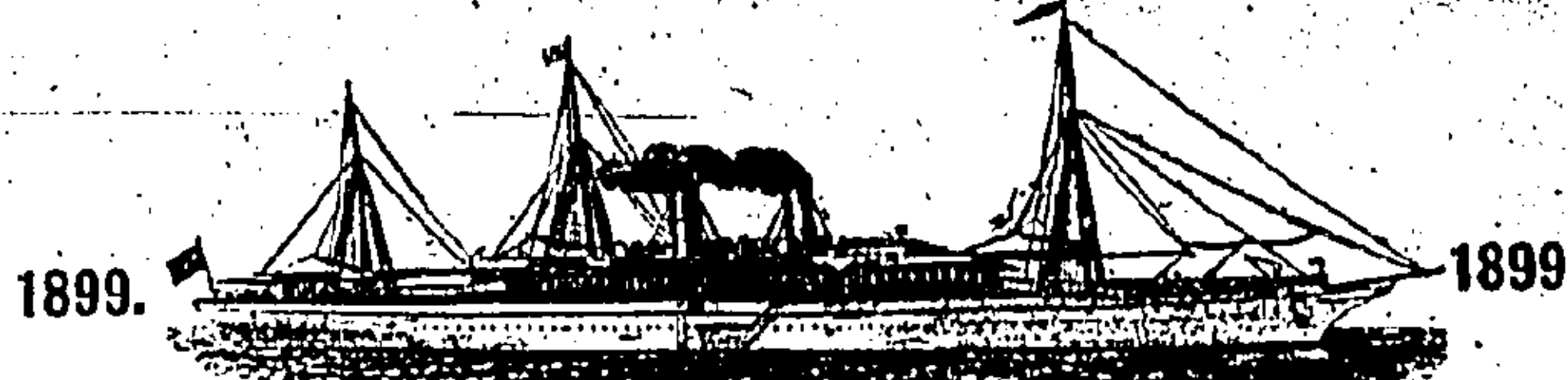
THOMAS BEECHAM, St. Helens, England.

SOLE AGENTS for HONGKONG and the

EMPIRE OF CHINA—

WATKINS & CO.,
APOTHECARYS HALL, 66, Queen's Road,
Central, Hongkong. [549b]

Mails.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY'S
ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

1899. SAFETY. SPEED. PUNCTUALITY.
THE FAST ROUTE BETWEEN CHINA, JAPAN AND EUROPE, VIA CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES.
(CALLING AT SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA AND VICTORIA, B.C.)
Twin Screw Steamships—6,000 Tons—10,000 Horse Power—Speed 19 knots.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

EMPEROR OF JAPAN...Comdr. Geo. A. Lee, R.N.R...WEDNESDAY, 17th May, 1899.
EMPEROR OF CHINA...Comdr. R. Archibald, R.N.R...WEDNESDAY, 17th June, 1899.
EMPEROR OF INDIA...Comdr. U. Marshall, R.N.R...WEDNESDAY, 28th June, 1899.

THE magnificent Twin-screw Steamships of this Line pass through the famous INLAND SEA OF JAPAN, and usually make the voyage YOKOHAMA TO VANCOUVER (B.C.) in 12 DAYS, saving THREE DAYS to a WEEK in the Trans-Pacific journey, and make connection at Vancouver with the PALATIAL TRANS-CONTINENTAL TRAINS of the CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY which leave daily, and cross the Continent FROM THE PACIFIC TO THE ATLANTIC WITHOUT CHANGE. Close connection is made at Montreal, Quebec, Halifax New York and Boston with all Trans-Atlantic Lines, which passengers to Great Britain and the Continent are given choice of.

Passengers Booked through to all principal points and AROUND THE WORLD. Return tickets to various points at reduced rates, from 4 to 12 months.

SPECIAL RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments.

The attractive features of the Company's route embrace its PALATIAL STEAMSHIPS, (second to none in the World), the LUXURANCE OF ITS TRANS-CONTINENTAL TRAINS (the Company having received the highest award for same at recent Chicago World's Exhibition), and the diversity of MAGNIFICENT MOUNTAIN AND LAKE SCENERY through which the Railway passes.

THE DINING CARS AND MOUNTAIN HOTELS of this route are owned and operated by the Company, and their appointments and Cuisine are unexcelled.

For further information, Maps, Guide, Books, Rates of Passage, &c., apply to

D. E. BROWN, General Agent,
Pedder's Street, [5]

Hongkong, 26th April, 1899.

TOYO KISEN KAISHA. NORTHERN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

TO SAN FRANCISCO, VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

NIPPON MARU (via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Yokohama & Honolulu) Saturday, 20th May, at Noon.

AMERICA MARU (via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Yokohama & Honolulu) Tuesday, 13th June, at Noon.

THE Steamship

"NIPPON MARU,"

will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO, VIA SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, INLAND SEA, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU, on SATURDAY, the 20th May, at Noon, taking Freight and Passengers for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Steamers of this line pass through the INLAND SEA OF JAPAN, and call at HONOLULU, and Passengers are allowed to break their journey at any point en route.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers, and to the principal cities of the United States or Canada. Rates may be obtained on application.

Passengers holding through ORDERS TO EUROPE have the choice of Overland Rail routes from San Francisco including the SOUTHERN PACIFIC, CENTRAL PACIFIC, UNION PACIFIC, DENVER and RIO GRANDE, and NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAYS; also the CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY on payment of £4 in addition to the regular tariff rate.

Passengers holding orders for OVERLAND CITIES in the United States have between San Francisco and Chicago, the option of the SOUTHERN PACIFIC, CENTRAL PACIFIC, UNION PACIFIC, DENVER and RIO GRANDE, and other direct connecting Railways, and from Chicago to destination the choice of direct lines.

Particulars of the various routes can be had on application.

Special rates (first class only) are granted to Missionaries, members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic, and Civil Services, to European Officials in the service of China and Japan, and to Government officials and their families.

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to Atlantic and Inland Cities of the United States, to Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, by the Company's and connecting Steamers.

Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at Office until 5 P.M. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; value of same is required.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to points beyond San Francisco in the United States should be sent to the Company's Office in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 7, Praya Central.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent.
Hongkong, 11th March, 1899. [1310]

MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA.

No. 6, Ice House Street, Praya Central.

Head Office—TOKIO.

Branch Offices—

LONDON, NEW YORK, BOMBAY, SINGAPORE, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, NEWCHANG and all Ports in JAPAN.

Agents—

Mitsui Coal Mines.

Ohmura Coal Mines.

Kanada Coal Mines.

Meiji Fire Insurance Co., Limited.

Imperial Government Paper Mills, Japan.

Cotton Cleaning and Wkg. Co., Shanghai.

Onoda Cement Company, Japan.

Kanagatuchi Cotton Spinning Mill, Japan.

The Milke Cotton Spinning Mill, Limited.

Tokyo Cotton Spinning Mill, Japan.

Hayashi Clock Factory.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1899. [145]

Mails.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.



HAMBURG-AMERICA LINE.

(Freight Service.) (East Asiatic Service.)
(Taking Cargo at through rates to ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM, LISBON, OPORTO, LONDON, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW, TRIESTE, GENOA, PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK SEA AND BALTIC PORTS; NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.)

PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG
SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATIONS.	SAILING DATES.
*HEIDELBERG... Schuler	HAVRE and HAMBURG (LONDON with transshipment in HAMBURG)	About 25th May Passage
*SIBIRIA... Hildebrandt	HAVRE and HAMBURG (LONDON with transshipment in HAMBURG)	About 30th May Passage
*KONIGSBERG... Christiansen	HAVRE and HAMBURG (LONDON with transshipment in HAMBURG)	About 15th June Passage
DEIKE RICKMERS	NEW YORK via SUEZ CANAL	About 30th June Freight

* These Steamers have Superior Accommodation for Passengers and carry a Doctor and a Stewardess.

Calling at NAPLES for Passengers only, if sufficient inducement offers.

For further particulars as to Freight, Passage, &c., apply to

CARLOWITZ & Co., Agents.

CALIFORNIA AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ATCHAFON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE RAILROAD CO.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG TO SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN DIEGO VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

Taking Cargo and Passengers to Japan Ports and HONOLULU, The UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA, &c.

Thyra... 3,406 about May 20

Helena King... 3,379 about June 20

Carmarthenshire... 2,929 about July 20

Carlisle City... 3,002 about Aug. 20

THE Steamship

"THYRA,"

will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO and SAN DIEGO VIA NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU, on or about the 20th May.

Through Bills of Lading issued to any point in the United States.

Cargo will be received on board until 5 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until the same time. All parcels should be marked to address in full. Value of same is required.

Consular Invoices, to accompany cargo destined to Points beyond San Diego, should be sent to the Company's Office, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Diego.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, China and Japan.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1899. [1330]

U.S. MAIL LINE.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

City of Rio de Janeiro (via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Yokohama & Honolulu) Saturday, 27th May, at Noon.

City of Peking (via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Yokohama & Honolulu) Thursday, 22nd June, at Noon.

China (via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Yokohama & Honolulu) Tuesday, 18th July, at Noon.

THE U. S. Mail Steamship.

"CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO,"

will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO, VIA SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, INLAND SEA, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU, on SATURDAY, the 27th May, at Noon, taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Steamers of this line pass through the INLAND SEA OF JAPAN, and call at Honolulu, and passengers are allowed to break their journey at any point en route.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers, and to the principal cities of the United States or Canada. Rates may be obtained on application.

Passengers holding through ORDERS TO EUROPE have the choice of Overland Rail routes from San Francisco including the SOUTHERN PACIFIC, CENTRAL PACIFIC, UNION PACIFIC, DENVER and RIO GRANDE, and NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAYS; also the CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY on payment of £4 in addition to the regular tariff rate.

Passengers holding Orders for OVERLAND CITIES in the United States have between San Francisco and Chicago, the option of the SOUTHERN PACIFIC, CENTRAL PACIFIC, UNION PACIFIC, DENVER and RIO GRANDE, and other direct connecting Railways, and from Chicago to destination the choice of direct lines.

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Special rates (first class only) are granted to Missionaries, members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic, and Civil Service, to European Officials in the service of China and Japan, and to Government officials and their families.

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to Atlantic and Inland Cities of the United States, to Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, by the Company's and connecting Steamers.

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For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 7, Praya Central.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent.
Hongkong, 15th April, 1899. [1340]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE.

STEAMSHIP FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUZ, PORT SAID, NAPLES, GENOA, ANTWERP, BREMEN AND HAMBURG, PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK SEA AND BALTIC PORTS.

ALSO LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON, BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS, GALVESTON, AND SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.

THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL CALL AT SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUZ, PORT SAID, NAPLES, GENOA, ANTWERP, BREMEN AND HAMBURG, PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK SEA AND BALTIC PORTS.

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